Cook County Bureau of Economic Development (CCBED)

Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) Meeting Minutes May 28, 2014

Location: County Building, 118 N. Clark Street, 4th Floor – Room 436

Call to order and Roll call

Howard Males called to order the regular meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) at 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Herman Brewer, Joseph Flanagan, Commissioner Jesus Garcia, Commissioner Andrew Mooney, Graham C. Grady, Howard Males, Pam McDonough, Phaedra Leslie for Karen Norton-Reaves, Ed Paesel, Edward Sitar and William W. Towns

Members Absent: Lynn Cutler, David Day, Wesley J. Lujan, Diane Morefield and Victoria Matays-Smith

Others Present: Courtney Pogue, (CCBED) Sheryl Stewart Caldwell, (CCBED), Irene Sherr (CCBED), Dominick La Spisa, comptroller, Tony's Finer Foods Enterprise, Inc.

Chairman Males opened the floor for public comment. There were no public speakers.

I. Approval of Minutes from the March 26, 2014

The minutes from the March 26, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

II. Chairman Remarks

Chairman Howard Males remarked on a meeting he arranged with Howard Tullman CEO of 1871 a tech incubator and Jimmy O'Connor the former CEO of 1871 with President Preckwinkle. President Preckwinkle toured 1871's facility. The discussion was about 1871's future innovation project for female entrepreneurs and the importance of elected leadership's support. The project will support the best women-founded businesses from across the nation and around the globe.

Chairman Males welcomed the new member William W. Towns, Assistant Vice President, Office of Civil Engagement of the University of Chicago. Chairman Males assigned Mr. Towns to the Subcommittee of Financial Tools.

III. Sub-Committee Reports

Subcommittee of Governance and Membership -.Graham Grady Subcommittee Chair, discussed the subcommittee's last meeting with BED staff regarding the Community Development Advisory Council of Cook County (CDAC). CDAC has been inactive and has had difficulty securing quorum at their recent meetings. CDAC has statutory responsibilities required by the Community Development Block Grant Fund programs. BED would like to integrate their Community Development Activities and their Economic Development Activities together. The recommendation of the Governance committee is to dissolve CDAC and EDAC assume the responsibilities of CDAC. This recommendation will be considered at the next CDAC meeting.

Subcommittee of Financial Tools - Pam McDonough, Subcommittee Chair, discussed the subcommittee's meeting held on May 21, 2014. The subcommittee reviewed Ingraffia-Gambino Investment, LLC (Tony's Finer Foods Enterprise), Inc. class 7b tax incentive application for approval by EDAC. In addition there was a request for a special call meeting in June for Weichai America Corporation Class 7b for the reason of time constraint regarding approval of Weichai's parent company.

Action on proposed 7b for Ingraffia-Gambino Investment, LLC (Tony's Finer Foods Enterprise, Inc.)

Courtney Pogue stated that BED has reached out to different municipalities regarding the reoccupation of vacant Dominick stores. Communication with the Village of Countryside resulted in a purchase by Tony's Finer Foods Enterprise, Inc. located at 6704-24 Joliet Road, Countryside, Illinois. Mr. Pogue reviewed and confirmed the five (5) qualifying factors of the Class 7b.

The Cook County Bureau of Economic Development (CCBED) has reviewed the application for a Cook County Class 7b Property Tax Incentive submitted by Tony's Finer Foods Enterprise, Inc. for the purpose of re-occupying of a former Dominick's Store in Countryside, IL. CCBED supports the project.

Dominick La Spisa, comptroller, Tony's Finer Foods Enterprise, Inc. made a presentation and answered questions related to this project. Mr. Spisa also reviewed the financial capacity of Ingraffia-Gambino Investment, LLC d/b/a Tony's Finer Foods Enterprise, Inc. to finance the project.

The floor was open for discussion questions regarding the tax savings to Tony's Finer Foods Enterprise, whether or not the applicant is receiving any sales tax rebate from Countryside and if the applicant is considering any other locations..

Additional information was given by Phaedra Leslie of the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, regarding Tony's Finer Foods Enterprise participation in the rehiring of former Dominick's store employees.

Pam McDonough motioned to approve Tony's Finer Foods Enterprise Class 7b application. The motion was seconded by Graham Grady and approved unanimously.

Courtney Pogue requested that the Chair I call a special meeting of EDAC to present Weichai America Corporation's Class 7b request. Weichai is the second largest diesel engine manufacturer in the world. Cook County is competing against Ontario, Canada to become Weichai's North American Headquarters. Cook County is offering the applicant a class 7b to stay in Rolling Meadows along with other initiatives offered by the State of Illinois and ComEd.

Chairman Males is scheduled a special meeting for June 25, 2014 at 8:00am to consider this item.

IV. The Bureau of Economic Development (BED) Update: Planning and Development Updates - Mike Jasso, Director of Planning and Development spoke regarding Planning for Progress. Planning for Progress is the unified planning process including the five year Consolidated Plan and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan (CEDS).

Mike Jasso introduced Jennifer Miller, project manager Cook County Department of Planning and Johnathan Birch from CMAP which is providing technical assistance to the County for Planning for Progress. Ms. Miller explained the Consolidated Plan and CEDS. The Consolidated Plan is required by HUD and is specific to Community Block Grant Program, Home Investment and Homeless Prevention and Emergency Solution Grants and the CEDS is the Economic Development Plan that includes the City of Chicago and focuses on economic development and will be based on Partnering for Prosperity. l. Although CEDS is required to apply for t economic development funds from the Department of Commerce. Ms. Miller gave a brief description of the outreach and workshops held in the north, west and south suburban areas of the county. The following priorities emerged: infrastructure improvements, work force development and business development. The department of planning has reached out to other County Departments who are working on their strategic plans; Department of Transportation and Highways, Housing Authority of Cook County and Department of Public Health making sure what BED is doing is not cross purposing in what the other departments our doing.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: CCBED – Sheryl Stewart-Caldwell